

We must mention as belonging to 1922 the birth of the agricultural movement later called the biological dynamic method in agriculture, now known widely over the earth. Mention has already been made in connection with the years 1920 and 1921 of the aid Rudolf Steiner gave to Ehrenfreid Pfeiffer and to me, who were initiating work in the biological research laboratory. When we now went to him with the request for suggestions for rendering practical in agriculture the results of our research, he gave us for the first time the stimulation to acquire preparations for such use out of the realms of animals and plants. These should be exposed in a particular way to the rhythms of the cosmic and earthly forces in summer and winter so that the forces beneficial to life within the preparations might be concentrated and enriched. They could then be applied, although in extremely fine division, in agriculture. Such measures have since been so extensively employed and with such clear results that one needs here to mention only certain details.

I remember, for example, vividly our astonishment when Rudolf Steiner gave us the advice to take cow horns, fill these with certain substances, bury them under the earth, and let them remain there through the winter. Naturally, we asked many questions: for example, whether the horns were to be closed above, with wax or cloth, how long they should be left underground, how deeply they should be buried, and the like. All of these questions were at once answered precisely. In regard to things which should not be done, I still remember my question whether metallic supplements were to be added to the animal and plant preparation, whereupon Dr. Steiner immediately provided a very instructive discourse on the harmful effects of certain chemical products in present methods of fertilization and control of pests. He said, for example, in answering my question about quicksilver that the evil effect of this not only shows itself in influences upon processes of nutrition but would even continue to be effective in following generations and for that reason was to be utterly eliminated.

We carried out his instructions precisely. I mention one more humorous detail. In burying the preparations in a certain meadow, we forgot in our enthusiasm, to mark the place clearly so that, when Rudolf Steiner himself appeared the next spring as these were to be dug up, we could not at first find them. He himself related this amusing incident in the Koberwitz course of 1924. Smiling in a friendly way, he watched our digging and searching in anxiety and in sweat, for we wanted him by all means to be present when the first preparations were brought out of the earth. When we had already dug over a great extent in vain and he was about to get back into his automobile, our spades fortunately struck the buried horns. They were brought into the daylight and were examined carefully by him. He then instructed that pitchers of water should be brought, and he emptied the substances into these and began to stir the preparations violently in the water. Farmers in many countries have since that time carried out every year this strenuous process of stirring, but it was a very peculiar experience when the creator - more than 61 years old – of this agricultural method, for the first time with a strong hand and unweariedly kept the stirring stick moving rhythmically back and forth in the fluid, to provide the first preparation for the biologic-dynamic agricultural method. We then took turns in this process of stirring, and he explained to us meanwhile thoroughly for how long a time and in what manner mixing and the stirring were to be carried on. At the same time he gave the next following lines of direction for providing other preparations and for further research. How many thousands of times may the preparations have been provided in all parts of the world since those first made at the Goetheanum, and how tremendously beneficial they have been for agriculture! During this year he gave also to a courageous pioneer in agriculture in Marienstein [Herr Stegeman] the directives for the first actual

farming without the applications of artificial manures and for the sound development of the agricultural organism. Out of these first researches and preparations in Dornach and the systematic farming practice in Marienstein have the first steps of the biologic-dynamic agricultural method grown. It is, therefore, for all of those who apply with gratitude and with success these methods for the benefit of humanity that we have called back into memory the initial moment at the Goetheanum in 1922.